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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

26 December 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*USSR-Summit: Khrushchev has seized on the conflict of dates between a summit meeting, opening on 27 April, proposed by the West, and the May Day celebrations in Moscow for a gesture intended as a polite demonstration of the USSR's great-power status. In his letter of 25 December he observed that 27 April is "unfortunately inconvenient for the Soviet Government" and suggested 21 April and 4 May as alternate dates. His failure to mention any point concerning the conference except its place and date suggests that he is seeking a firm Western commitment on these before raising more difficult issues.

USSR-China: As in the case of the Sino-Indian border dispute, the Soviet Union is not supporting China in another international problem. Soviet press treatment of Indonesian actions against Overseas Chinese in Indonesia and of resulting Chinese protests has been minimal and, on the whole, neutral. This has contrasted sharply with the extensive and strongly anti-Indonesian campaign in the Chinese press. The Chinese would undoubtedly welcome some public Soviet support, but Moscow's position was made clear in Djakarta last month by Soviet Ambassador Volkov's plea to Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio to "please keep me out of it."

II. ASIA-AFRICA

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III. THE WEST

OK Austria-Italy: A high-ranking official in the Austrian Foreign Ministry believes Austria will break off negotiations with Italy over the German-speaking population of the South Tirol soon after the expected resumption of these talks around 8 January. Should this occur, disturbances in the area seem increasingly likely. However, the official thinks an Italian offer to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice would be immediately accepted by Austria, which finds it politically difficult to take such an initiative itself.

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*In Rome, Foreign Minister Pella is now said to favor an appeal to the court, but rightist supporters of the Segni government are reported still blocking the move.

25X1

(Page 1)

26 Dec 59

DAILY BRIEF

iii

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

III. THE WEST

Threatened Break in Austrian-Italian Negotiations Over South Tirol

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[A threatened break in the Austrian-Italian talks on the status of the German-speaking minority in the Italian South Tirol seems likely to aggravate the increasing friction between Vienna and Rome over this issue. A high-ranking official of the Austrian Foreign Ministry indicated to Ambassador Matthews on 22 December his belief that his government will terminate the talks soon after their anticipated resumption around 8 January. His reason for expecting a rupture is Rome's refusal to negotiate further with Austrian State Secretary Gschnitzer, who has recently made inflammatory statements on the subject.

A break in the talks, unaccompanied by an agreement to refer the issue to some international forum, could trigger violence in the area. Austrian officials have long contended that the situation is "explosive," and the Italian ambassador in Vienna has seemed recently to share their concern. Although he doubts any large quantities of arms are being smuggled into the area, he sees a great danger of isolated acts of terrorism which would require repressive Italian action.

Vienna apparently continues to hope for American mediation, but failing that, seems bent on preparing to raise the issue in the UN General Assembly. The foreign ministry considers it politically impossible for Austria to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in view of Vienna's past opposition to such a move and the uncertainty as to the outcome. According to the foreign ministry source, Vienna would, however, accept such an initiative from Rome.

Rome has in the past few days seemed increasingly disturbed over the situation and has instructed its ambassador to

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remain in Vienna throughout the holiday period. A foreign ministry official told an American Embassy representative on 24 December that both ministry officials and Foreign Minister Pella believe Italy should propose ICJ consideration of outstanding issues, but that rightist supporters of the Segni government are still blocking such a move. [REDACTED]

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